

Susanne Suter

Baker RC (ed): Pediatric primary care: XVI ill-child care, XVII well-child care. (Core Handbooks in Pediatrics)

Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Philadelphia, 2001, XVI 368 pp with illustrations and tables (ISBN 0-7817-2890-8), €39.56; XVII 424 pp with illustrations and tables (ISBN 0-7817-2889-4), €39.56

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Raymond C. Baker from the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, has edited a Handbook on Pediatric Primary Care. Most contributing authors of chapters are from the same institution. The book is separated into two volumes: one entitled Well-Child Care, the other Ill-Child Care.

The volume on well-child care is structured in three parts: the components of the well-child visit, visits by age and developmental stage and behavioural and developmental aspects of the well child visit. These first three parts present the essential information in a way which is easy to consult and is completed by indications for additional recommended reading. Check-lists for specific visits (adolescents for example) and algorithms and a chapter on pre-participation sports physical provide valuable assistance for physicians involved in primary paediatric care. What may be less appreciated are the

various "do's" and "don't's" in chapters on educational guidance. The diversity of educational principles among families is probably not taken enough into account and may leave some readers unsatisfied. A section on miscellaneous topics concludes the book, with indications among others on useful Internet addresses as well as charts on growth and development.

The volume on ill-child care concentrates on the most common disorders. Diagnostic and therapeutic aspects and procedures are presented in short, concentrated chapters with indications for additional recommended reading. Some chapters are completed with algorithms for clinical reasoning, whereas illustrations, especially of dermatological disorders, are missing. Very helpful at the end of the book are guidelines for antimicrobial drug dosages for paediatric patients as well as tables with normal values and growth charts.